



Sandy and Tom Sullivan mark their golden anniversary by renewing their vows amidst their “Aruban Family”

Yesterday, Aruba’s azure sky and sea may have made an intensely blue backdrop for the renewal of vows of Sandy and Tom Sullivan of Massapequa, New York, but the mood of the couple and the large gathering certainly did not match. It was an emotional and jubilant moment for the couple that celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in June, but felt compelled to share this experience “with our many wonderful friends; our “extended Aruban family” that we have come to know during the seventeen years we have been vacationing in Aruba,” they expressed.

Tom and Sandy bought timesharing at the Aruba Beach Club after their first visit to the island, which was for one day during a Caribbean cruise. They ended up for the day on the section of Eagle Beach that fronts the resort, and they loved everything about it on first sight. As soon as a timeshare became available they purchased two weeks, and it has been their annual vacation destination ever since. “It was more than the beautiful beach, and the perfect set up of the resort, but the wonderfully warm, friendly islanders that decided us, and after visiting many other islands, we couldn’t be happier with our choice to return to Aruba every year.”

During a vow renewal ceremony conducted by Reverend Bob Gibson at the water’s edge on the ABC beach, Sandy and Tom also shared their happiness of having spent fifty wonderful years together with not only their beach buddies, but many of the staff of the ABC that they now deem to be friends. They expressed particular gratitude to Food and Beverage Manager Patricia Hau, “who made everything easy for me,” confided Sandy. “Patricia arranged everything; the cake, the party, the arch on the beach and the flowers, even a DJ, to make it a real party! We couldn’t have done it without her.”

After professing their deep and everlasting love for each other, accompanied by the constant flashing of cameras by the crowd of well-wishers that were dubbed “paparazzi” by Reverend Bob, Tom again placed Sandy’s wedding ring on her finger, promising to cherish her always. Acting as official witness was Joe Mandala, who was Tom’s best man when he and Sandy originally married, and who has also owned at the Aruba Beach Club for the last seventeen years. The entire group retired to the ABC pool deck where a lovely buffet awaited them, and “DJ b”, who had exhumed his entire collection of Elvis Presley and other Rock n’ Roll classics, providing an afternoon of music and dancing that was definitely a time warp “Back to the Fifties.” Adorning the buffet table was a beautifully framed set of photos, one of Tom and Sandy on their wedding day, the other of them at the recent formal golden anniversary celebration.

Their Aruban party was anything but formal, as most of the guests were in bathing suits and barefoot, but they admit, an afternoon everyone will certainly remember! The staff of THE NEWS offers congratulations to Sandy and Tom, and best wishes for many more years of wedded bliss!